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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	OASY-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	MCO-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/019W	
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R 081007Z JAN 97
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0634
INFO USEU BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ5/ECPLAD//
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
ODC ANKARA TU//TCH//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5//
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/USDP/ISA//
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000231

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL:06
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: NATO ENLARGEMENT--TURKISH TAKE ON RUSSIAN
VIEWS

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REF: 96 ANKARA 13628

¶1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ACTING POLCOUNS MARC SIEVERS,
EMBASSY ANKARA, REASON 1.5 (B).

¶2. (C) DURING AN OFFICE CALL BY A/POLCOUNS AND
POLOFF ON JANUARY 7, TURKISH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR SLAVIC REPUBLICS ALP KARAOSMANOGLU
SUMMARIZED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NATO ENLARGEMENT
BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS YEVGENIY PRIMAKOV AND TANSU
CILLER DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW DECEMBER
17-19, 1996. KARAOSMANOGLU'S SUMMARY EXPANDS ON THAT
PROVIDED THE AMBASSADOR BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY ONUR
OYMEN ON DECEMBER 20 (REFTEL).

¶3. (C) ACCORDING TO KARAOSMANOGLU, PRIMAKOV TOLD
CILLER THAT RUSSIA DOES NOT VIEW CURRENT PLANS FOR
NATO EXPANSION AS A THREAT TO RUSSIA. HOWEVER, RUSSIA
WANTS TO ENSURE THAT AN EXPANDED NATO DOES NOT BECOME
"A NEW NAME FOR AN OLD GEO-POLITICAL DIVISION" THAT
ISOLATES RUSSIA FROM THE REST OF EUROPE. RUSSIA
RECOGNIZES THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF NATO ENLARGEMENT
AND ITS OWN EVOLVING RELATIONS WITH NATO AND
CONSEQUENTLY WANTS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN ORDER TO
AVOID "MAKING A GEO-STRATEGIC MISTAKE."

¶4. (C) KARAOSMANOGLU SAID PRIMAKOV CONFIDED TO
CILLER THAT "CERTAIN CIRCLES IN RUSSIA," WHO WERE
INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN MODERNIZING THE COUNTRY'S
ARMED FORCES, DID NOT FAVOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH

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NATO. KARAOSMANOGLU SURMISED THAT PRIMAKOV INTENDED THE TURKS TO ASSUME THESE "CIRCLES" WERE LOCATED WITHIN THE RUSSIAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND FOUND IN THE SPECTER OF AN ANTAGONISTIC NATO CONVENIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR CLAIMING RESOURCES NEEDED TO UPGRADE RUSSIA'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES. PRIMAKOV THEN MADE A POINT OF ASSURING CILLER THAT, DESPITE THIS ELEMENT OF OPPOSITION, RUSSIAN POLICY MAKERS WERE "READY TO TALK ABOUT RELATIONS WITH NATO," UNDERSTOOD THE CONCEPT OF NATO EXPANSION, AND SUPPORTED A CLOSER/IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALLIANCE. PRIMAKOV WARNED CILLER, HOWEVER, THAT AS NATO EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MORE MEMBERS, THE ALLIANCE INEVITABLY WOULD ENCOMPASS MORE DISPUTES AND GROW LESS COHESIVE. NOW NATO SUFFERS FROM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, PRIMAKOV ELABORATED, BUT WITH MORE MEMBERS IT WOULD INCLUDE MORE DISPUTES.

15. (C) KARAOSMANOGLU REPORTED THAT CILLER RESPONDED TO PRIMAKOV'S STATEMENT OF RUSSIA'S POSITIONS BY CANDIDLY DESCRIBING TURKEY'S VIEWS. FOR TURKEY, NATO ENLARGEMENT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION FROM EXPANSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU), THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU) AND THE LATTER'S EVOLVING COLLECTIVE SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES. TURKEY AGREED THAT AN ENLARGED NATO SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH NEW LINES OF DIVISION IN EUROPE. TURKEY'S VIEW WAS THAT ALL THINKING ABOUT EUROPE MUST INCLUDE RUSSIA AS AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE WHOLE.

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